AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 2, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 4 from the bottom, with the following:

From the prior art there are already known open porous implants which are made from an aggregation of granules. In ~~US-A-5,626~~ US-A-5,626,861, a polymer matrix consisting preferably of 50/50 polylactide/polyglycolide copolymer is described, which is reinforced with particulate hydroxyapatite. This combination of materials of materials is supposed to permit to maintain the integrity of the implant as the degradation proceeds. Also the osteoconductive potential is supposedly increased. In the manufacture of the implant particulate hydroxyapatite having an average particle size of about 10 - 100 μm, and inert leachable particles (e.g. NaCl of a particle size of about 100 - 250 μm) are suspended in a PLGA solvent solution. The polymer solvent solution is emulsified and cast into any appropriate mold. As the solvent is evaporated from the salt, ceramics and polymer mixture, the dried material retains the shape of the mold. The salt particles within the implant are then leached out by immersion in water. By this method pores having a diameter of about 100 - 250 μm are left in the implant. The major drawback of this method is the necessity of a complete removal of the organic solvent, which takes time and requires costly analysis before the implant may be applied to the patient in order to treat bone defects.